

Message Text

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12

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 /035 W

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R 130538Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7258

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USLO PEKING

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR MEEKER AND NOVOTNY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: AWB MISSION TO VISIT PRC

1. AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD DELEGATION LED BY DEPUTY
GENERAL MANAGER JOHN WILLIAMS DEPARTED MELBOURNE
EVENING JAN. 12 FOR HONG KONG AND PEKING TO NEGOTIATE
NEW WHEAT SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR 1976, AND IS EXPECTED
TO ARRIVE IN PEKING JAN. 15. DECISION TO DEPART MADE
AT LAST MINUTE, AS DEATH OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI AND
FUNERAL JAN. 15 WAS EXPECTED TO CAUSE DELAY. AWB
SPOKESMAN INDICATED BOARD HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN IDEA ON
VOLUME PRC WILLING TO PURCHASE, BUT OBVIOUSLY PRC
PREPARED TO MEET AT LEAST PART OF 1.5 TO 1.8 MILLION
COMMITMENT UNDER LONG TERM AGREEMENT FOR 1976.

2. GOA OFFICIALS BELIEVE PRC WILL TAKE AT LEAST 1
MILLION TONS, BUT AWB DELEGATION HOPES TO REACH
AGREEMENT ON 1.5 MILLION TONS. CONTRACT FOR 1
MILLION TONS MARCH/FEBRUARY 1975/76 VIRTUALLY
COMPLETED WITH ONLY ABOUT 30,000 TONS REMAINING
TO BE NOMINATED FOR SHIPMENT. IN VIEW OF BETTER
THAN EXPECTED HARVEST AWB WOULD BE HAPPY TO SELL
UP TO 1.8 MILLION TONS FOR SHIPMENT DURING 1976,
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BUT MOST AUTHORITIES DOUBT PRC WILL TAKE THIS MUCH

UNLESS PRICE IS RIGHT. HOWEVER, AWB HAS OBTAINED
RESERVE BANK EXCHANGE APPROVAL FOR 12 MONTHS CREDIT
TERMS FOR UP TO THIS QUANTITY IN CASE A DEAL CAN BE
CLINCHED.
PERCIVAL

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